

**Announcement: Storebrand Bank**

**Moody's affirms Storebrand's ratings**

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London, 03 September 2007 -- Moody's today affirmed the ratings of Storebrand Livsforsikring AS (A2 IFSR, Baa1 Subordinated/Subordinated MTN/Junior Subordinated MTN), Storebrand Bank (C- BFSR, P-1 ST Bank Deposits, A2 LT Bank Deposits/Senior Unsecured/Senior Unsecured MTN, A3 Subordinated MTN/Junior Subordinated MTN) and Storebrand ASA (Baa2 LT Issuer Rating/Senior Unsecured MTN and Baa3 Subordinated MTN/Junior Subordinated MTN), all with a stable outlook.

The rating action follows the announcement on September 3rd 2007 by Storebrand Group of its proposed SEK 18.0 billion (EUR 1.9 billion, NOK 15.3 billion) acquisition of SPP Livförsäkring AB, a Swedish life insurer, as well as Handelsbanken Life and Pensions Ltd, SPP Fonder AB and Handelsbanken's 50% preference share interest in Nordben Life & Pension Insurance Co (collectively, "SPP") all subsidiaries of the Handelsbanken Group.

The transaction is subject to, inter alia, Storebrand shareholders approving the rights issue, as well as the required regulatory approvals. In the event of the proposed transaction proceeding, completion is expected by end 2007. Storebrand proposes that it will finance the transaction with a mix of equity (59%, NOK 9.0 billion), a bridge loan (30%, NOK 4.6 billion) and a special dividend to be paid by SPP to Handelsbanken prior to closing of the transaction (11%, NOK 1.7 billion). Storebrand expects that the bridge loan will be refinanced with subordinated debt as soon as practically possible following closure of the transaction. It is Storebrand's intention to issue both hybrid tier 1 capital and lower tier 2 capital in approximately equal amounts.

Commenting on the rationale behind the affirmation of Storebrand's ratings, Dominic Simpson, Moody's Vice President-Senior Credit Officer and lead analyst for Storebrand said that "given the size of SPP relative to the existing Storebrand Group, the proposed acquisition poses a meaningful integration risk. Furthermore, substantial management action is likely to be required to reverse SPP's declining market share in recent years. In addition, the acquisition would likely, in Moody's opinion, in the short-to medium term, suppress profitability levels for the combined group, as measured on a return on equity basis. More positively, the enhanced geographic and product diversification with SPP's 10.3% occupational pensions market share in Sweden, the conservative funding structure and the "friendly" nature of the deal act as strong mitigating factors".

The following ratings were affirmed, all with a stable outlook:

Storebrand Livsforsikring AS A2 insurance financial strength

Baa1 subordinated debt

Baa1 subordinated MTN debt

Baa1 junior subordinated MTN debt

Storebrand Bank C- bank financial strength

P-1 ST bank deposits

A2 LT bank deposits

A2 senior unsecured debt

A2 senior unsecured MTN debt

A3 subordinated MTN debt

A3 junior subordinated MTN debt

Storebrand ASA Baa2 senior unsecured MTN debt

Baa2 issuer rating

Baa3 subordinated MTN debt

Baa3 junior subordinated MTN debt

Storebrand Group, headquartered in Oslo, Norway, reported shareholders' equity of NOK 9.3 billion as at end June 2007. SPP, headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, reported shareholders' equity of SEK 10.2 billion as at YE 2006.

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